

BERNAL JOURNAL

1986 June

A FREE



Community Newspaper

Here Come the Trees!



Trees are coming to Bernal Heights this summer! Thanks to a group of hard-working Bernal Heights residents and their neighbors, three tree plantings are scheduled. On June 28, trees will be planted in the Banks/Prentiss/Gates neighborhood; on July 26, the Andover/Moultrie/Cortland/ Ellert area will be planted; and on September 13, trees will come to the Bocana/Andover/Powhattan neighborhood.

In every way, this is a community effort.

Bernal Heights residents have worked closely with San Francisco Friends of the Urban Forest, a five-year-old nonprofit organization committed to planting trees in San Francisco by working with neighbors, merchants and property owners. SFFUF is skilled in guiding neighborhood groups through the City permit process, in selecting tree species suited to a neighborhood's climate, in contracting for sidewalk cutting and hole digging, and in doing follow-up tree maintenance.

Local residents committed to the greening of Bernal formed the Bernal Heights Open Space Committee. This organization contacted Friends of the Urban Forest in the Fall of 1985 to ask assistance in organizing tree

planted. Many folks became involved, believing that trees create a sense of space that is necessary for a neighborhood to become a community. Friends of the Urban Forest and the B.H. Open Space Committee view trees as a softener of City noise, a provider of both beauty and protection, a cleaner of the air, a creator of comfortable outdoor spaces, and even an enhancer of property values.

Full funding for the summer planting in Bernal Heights comes from the Mayor's Office of Community Development. Each homeowner obtains one or more trees without cost, with their commitment to plant and maintain each tree. The grant is made to promote significant tree impact in an undeveloped neighborhood, so a minimum of 40 trees must be planted to qualify for grant support.

Bernal Heights residents Maurice Kelly and Lisa Steadman are coordinating the June and September plantings; these plantings will primarily beautify residential streets. The July 28th planting, coordinated by Karen Rivas, will include residential areas, as well as

commercial areas on Cortland Avenue and public areas at the library and the Park and Recreation Department. At this writing, Karen plans for close to 100 trees to be planted that day. The July planting will include involvement by senior citizens and youth groups at the B.H. Community Center and parishioners at St. Kevin's Church. Special thanks for the inspiration and contributions of Linda Aurichio and Tess Beistel.

Your support and involvement on planting day is most welcome; there are jobs for people of any age and physical ability. Planting day begins at 8:45 a.m. and will conclude with a noon potluck celebration for all volunteers. Come work with your neighbors. Call either Karen (826-1497) or Tess (824-8869) if you want to join the fun.

More to come! Neighborhood organizing for future plantings is under way on Treat, Bonview and Coleridge Streets. Other areas in Bernal Heights could be organized for future plantings. If your street could be greener and if you want to be a part of the greening of Bernal, call the Bernal Heights Open Space Committee (Lisa Steadman, 550-0529 or 282-8318) or Karen Rivas (826-1497).

Update on BHCF / Standard Brands Housing

(Continued on pg. 6)

To recap for readers not familiar with the history of the project, Coleridge Street Neighbors and the Bernal Heights Community Foundation (BHCF) have been working with Standard Brands executives to gain cooperation in the development of a

park and housing above the Standard Brands paint store. Standard Brands purchased the old bowling alley site on Mission near Virginia and planned to build a store with parking for their employees on the Coleridge Street lot above the store.

The Coleridge Street Neighbors approached Standard Brands to request donation of space and funds to build a small lot and public parking area on the Coleridge Street lot. BHCF expanded the project to include housing, and worked out a Memorandum

Modern Times Freebies

At Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia Street, free July events (all at 8 p.m.) include:

Sunday, July 13th: Wonderful World of Roadside Tourist Attractions. A slide show with Mike Wilkins, an author of "Roadside America," the very funny, very hip, travel guide which tours the outrageous landmarks and tourist meccas with deadpan sarcasm and humor.

Friday, July 18th: CIA, LSD & the Sixties Rebellion. Discussion with Martin Lee, author of "Acid Dreams," on the uses the government was making of the Sixties countercultural rebellion.

Wednesday, July 23rd: Ten Days in Libya. Carlos Alcalá, former Bernal Journal editor, photographer, staff person for El Tecolote and member of National Alliance of Third World Journalists, will show slides and discuss his experiences in Tripoli while covering an international conference.

"Autowise" Classes

On July 12, 19, and 26, Bernalian Mary Stern offers "Get Autowise"-- a one-day hands-on class for people who know nothing, but want to learn something, about their cars. Limit of 4 per class. Call 282-4957 to make a reservation.

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Invited

Bernal Heights Branch Library is sponsoring an Open House Wednesday, July 2, 7-9 p.m., in honor of the Statue of Liberty's 100th birthday. All Bernal residents are invited to meet the staff and check out the facilities. Feel free to bring finger-food donations and nonalcoholic beverages.

New Children's Librarian Vivian Sykes used to be a Head Start preschool teacher in New York City and recently left Ortega Branch Library in the same position. She will continue the regular film programs on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings and plans a crafts program (robots, masks, etc.) twice a month.

Through August 20, the S.F. Public Library is sponsoring a city-wide summer reading program for kids.

Mime Troupe Freebies

The San Francisco Mime Troupe's 24th season of free summer park shows will start a little late this year, opening August 9 (Mission Dolores Park) with final performances on October 4-5 (Sunken Meadow/Golden Gate Park). The annual weekend event is scheduled for a 19-performance run throughout August and September in Bay Area parks.

The 1986 production is an original work created by playwright John O'Neal, Founder of the Free Southern Theater and author of Hurricane Season, Where is the Blood of Your Fathers?, Junebug Jabbo Jones and others. O'Neal has chosen a spy/thriller format for his play and the setting is a post-revolutionary African nation, struggling to sustain itself while the threat of counter-revolution mounts with every passing day. Enter the U.S. Government and its nasty habit of interfering, plus Jane Plainfield, female 'spy'. Filled with comic touches, original music and song, plus the familiar faces of Troupe company members, this summer's show is an insightful and humorous look at our government's all too often meddling -- and deadly -- foreign policy.

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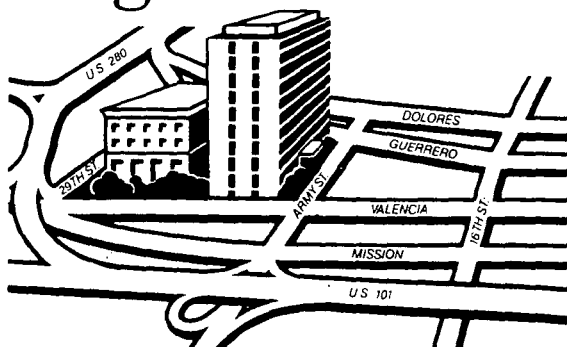
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A neighborhood's fight against inappropriate development is turning into a campaign which will ultimately affect everyone on Bernal Heights' East Slope, and perhaps all parts of the hill. The fight began in February, when an outraged resident stood in front of a bulldozer to protest the construction of a five-story house at the intersection of Costa and Brewster. Because the building permit had been posted far from the actual site, everyone had been shocked, two days before, to see a bulldozer begin gouging a deep hole in the lot just south of the Dogpatch community garden and into the roots of a gigantic eucalyptus tree.

The area around the construction site has dirt roads and steep, narrow streets, so fire trucks and other large vehicles find it hard to get in. Sewers, fire hydrants and other city services are inadequate for the existing homes, much less for new ones. Yet development has gone on at an alarming rate, despite the fact that in 1979 the East Slope Study, which was supposedly adopted by the Planning Commission, documented the area's problems and recommended carefully planned development.

The Brewster/Costa community formed the Bernal Heights East Slope Preservation Committee and began to appeal to various city agencies. The Board of Permit Appeals denied the appeal, even though they had visited the site and could see its problems. In court, the developer's right to make a profit again prevailed over

Bernal Heights East Slope

By Irene Thompson



the community's right to preserve the area. The excavation continued down to the source of a spring which now flows under the foundation, and the house continues to rise. It seems clear that the city favors unplanned development over the rights of neighborhoods, despite the fact that the Urban Design section of the Master Plan explicitly calls for

adherence to the very values that the BHESPC and similar groups are fighting for.

However, one part of the city did come through for the community. Supervisor Nancy Walker introduced a three-month moratorium on construction in this area. This gave the neighborhood time to work on a plan for careful development of the hill. Issues include: improved streets and other city services, preservation of the neighborhood's architectural character, open space and parks, and affordable housing. Flyers will soon be distributed on the East Slope to call residents to a community meeting at which we will begin planning how the people who live in and love this neighborhood want it to be in the future. We hope to accomplish what the people on Elsie Street did, by creating a plan that will allow us to work with the city and developers to preserve this area, rather than letting outside forces destroy it.

Development in Bernal Heights is inevitable. It could result in another version of Diamond Heights, with massive, unattractive, poorly built housing. Many of the people who plan to build here -- and there are many -- care mainly about speculative profits, and the city is all too willing to help them out. Only by working to organize ourselves and to fight for our rights will we be able to keep Bernal Heights as the attractive, affordable neighborhood it is now.

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NEIGHBORHOOD AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEES FORMING

By Nicole Myers

and Michael Granat

Voters should be acutely interested in the November election because one of San Francisco's most serious problems, lack of affordable housing, is being directly and indirectly addressed through various initiatives and candidates.

To help voters become aware of these pro-housing issues and candidates and to insure a substantial voter turnout, a new neighborhood organizing effort is starting up. Known as the Affordable Housing Campaign, it is already beginning in various neighborhoods throughout San Francisco.

The idea of the campaign is to let the voters know way in advance, neighborhood by neighborhood who are the people and issues which are serving their interests. The campaign will not depend on huge sums of money, but on the neighbors themselves who become involved.

The campaign itself developed as a result of a recent Forum on Affordable Housing, which was sponsored by the Humanist Party Housing Committee - following is a highlighted account of what took place. One of the startling revelations was that although 70% of the voters are renters, the majority often vote against their own interests. What if all the renters voted as a block?

The Affordable Housing Campaign is being coordinated with the tenant vote project and is working in coalition with other housing groups including the San Francisco Housing and Tenants Council, Old St.

Mary's Housing Committee and the S.F. Committee for Accountable Planning.

People are encouraged to help in this campaign and may find out more information by calling 550-1157/550-8399.

The statistics are alarming

- 27,000 people were evicted in San Francisco last year
- 71% of San Francisco residents can't afford the median rent, now averaging \$900 for a 2-bedroom
- 87% can't afford to buy a home in the City, now averaging \$149,000
- There has been a drastic increase of homeless people including families with children

These and other facts stirred concern and cause for action among the participants who attended a recent forum on "Affordable Housing in San Francisco" at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House. The reasons behind the housing crisis and possible solutions were presented by a panel of experts and housing advocates including Calvin Welch, member of the steering committee for S.F. C.A.P. (Campaign for Accountable Planning); Brad Paul, Executive Director of the North of Market Planning Coalition; Jim Faye of the San Francisco Housing and Tenants Council; Karen Edwards of the Humanist Party Central Committee, and Nicole Myers, moderator, and candidate for city Supervisor.

Among other reasons, Calvin Welch pointed out that the most enduring effect on the housing shortage has been, the "Incredible impact of the massive growth of the commercial office sector in SF in the last 15 years." According to Welch, 35.2 million square feet of com-

mercial office space have been built since 1970 - each million square feet is the equivalent of two TransAmerica buildings. To accommodate the enormous influx of workers, according to the City Planning Department, an additional 30,000 units of housing would be necessary to offset the housing/job imbalance. But only 15,000 units have been built, thereby leaving an enormous deficit.

Growth Limits Needed

The problem will grow drastically unless there are effective growth limits since an additional 23 million square feet is scheduled to be built over the next 14 years, increasing the deficit by another 20,000 housing units.

Jim Faye brought to light another point of view, the effects of all this on people as renters. Roughly 66% - 70% of San Francisco residents are renters.

In the past five years, rents have increased about 250%. One of the main reasons, according to Faye, is the loophole in San Francisco's rent control law, which protects occupied apartments but not vacant ones. With the upshoot in rental prices, too many landlords have pushed tenants out, later jacking up the rents. The vacancy control measure has been introduced twice but was vetoed both times by Mayor Feinstein, herself a landlord.

Meanwhile evictions are climbing steadily. Last year there were 7,200 court evictions. At least another 7,000 were not court evictions but people who were harassed out, their buildings were demolished or fires forced them out, etc. Since there are 1.9 people per household that comes to about 27,000 people being evicted! The grim prediction is that the number will increase this year.

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Although there are some eviction protection laws, often people don't apply them because they don't know their rights or the city doesn't properly enforce them. According to the Rent Stabilization Board the lower income people tend not to defend themselves.

Politics Involved

Brad Paul pointed out that much of the present crisis is due to our political system and that the biggest problems apart from those outlined are the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors and the City Attorney. Next in line is the Planning Commission which is appointed by the Mayor. Nowadays the price of becoming mayor is set at \$1 million and it takes about \$350,000 for incumbents to remain supervisors.

It was brought out by the participants and the panel that too much money is needed to keep politicians where they are. Extravagant campaign costs become fertile ground for special developer interests to exercise their influence since they can afford to supply the large sums of money needed to finance costly campaigns.

The point was underscored that not all landlords are bad, but rather a few make it bad for the others. For example, Angelo San Jacomo who owns close to 3,000 units receives bad marks from tenants groups. And 80-90% of the

downtown highrises are built with money from groups of developers who build and later disappear. As Welch put it, "They are not client built or purpose built but rather built for speculation." These are cases where the profit motivation easily overrules the interests of keeping San Francisco a liveable city for all.

Karen Edwards added that the high rents force the tenant population to be more transient, undermining the stability of our neighborhoods. "Because people don't feel 'rooted' in their neighborhood, they lack the commitment to make their neighborhoods stable and secure. It's in the interest of both renters and home owners to work together to combat the skyrocketing rents, both commercial and residential."

Solutions on the Horizon

On the solution side of the matter, the major conclusions that were reached were that the following steps must be taken:

1. Vacancy Control must be enacted.
2. A limit must be placed on new office space. Voters will have an opportunity to do so by voting YES on the S.F. C.A.P. Initiative to appear on the November ballot.
3. Likewise, a Commercial Rent Arbitration Initiative will be on the ballot which voters should give a resounding YES to in order to protect

the small neighborhood businesses.

4. Tenants must be better informed of their rights and begin to vote like tenants, not landlords. Stronger eviction protection laws.
5. New Supervisors need to be voted into office who will work for Affordable Housing as a main issue.
6. We absolutely need a progressive Mayor in 1987.

The forum was sponsored by the Humanist Party Housing Committee. More information can be obtained about future events to be held or any of the organizations mentioned by calling 550-1157.

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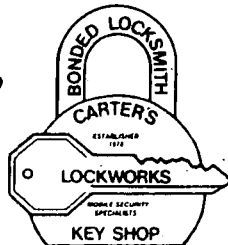
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from page 1

of Agreement with the Coleridge Street Neighbors so that the neighborhood could present a united front when dealing with Standard Brands.

Early architectural work and an idea by Michael Reed led to the inclusion of a mid-level structure with 89 parking spaces for the housing occupants and neighbors. The only problem was how to provide access to this parking level without disrupting the traffic on Coleridge and turning a quiet street into a noisy thoroughfare. To solve this problem, the project architects, George Meiers and Associates, came up with another creative idea. Why not try to purchase an easement from Winchell's to enable the construction of a ramp between the Winchell's Donut Shop and the first house on Virginia?

Negotiators from BHCF and supporters met with the Winchell's lot owner to discuss this easement. They met with resistance on a straight purchase, since the easement would limit further development on the site. Negotiators then suggested that Nasser Nasser, the Winchell's lot owner, develop the site concurrently with the Standard Brands/ Coleridge Park Homes construction. The development would have to meet all zoning requirements, including a 40' height limit, but as a trade for the easement, Nasser would be entitled to count some of the project's parking and open space in fulfillment of these requirements.

At a meeting on June 3, neighbors

heard the results of a survey designed to gather opinions on the Coleridge Park Homes development and voiced their concerns about the recommendations from a committee consisting of neighbors Mary Lou Bartoletti, June Brevdy, and Andrea Burhoe, BHCF Executive Director Fred Allingham, and BHCF Housing Director Michael Reed, with input from Coleridge Street Neighbors Bill Hull and Jeanne Choy Tate. The Committee distributed the survey to 350 homes in the Northwest Bernal Area (Coso to Cortland and Mission to Elsie).

Forty people responded, including responses from Coleridge Street Neighbors. Results of the survey and June 3 meeting show that neighbors support the Winchell's solution, but want the development to be conservative and esthetically pleasing.

Other recent decisions supported by the neighborhood include the agreement that the housing will be built for elderly and/or disabled

persons. Still remaining to be settled is the issue of whether the units will be for rent or for sale as co-ops or condos. Early financial analysis favored the rental concept, but at the June 3 meeting, neighbors strongly urged that ownership options be given first priority. BHCF agreed to ask BRIDGE and Center for Community Change for financial projections based on sales price versus rental income.

Neighbors are looking forward to the availability of more parking. The current plan is for the project to include 89 parking spaces: each resident with a car will have a reserved space, and the remaining spaces (at least 54) will be purchased by the Parking Authority for public parking. This would mean metered parking from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. with neighbors being able to park for free from 6 p.m. until the next morning.

Finally, the real bonus for the neighborhood will be a park. The plan calls for up to 16,000 square feet of open space on the Coleridge Street side of the project. The survey showed that the first preference for use of this space is for trees and grass, with a children's play area coming in a strong second choice. Still to be determined is the ultimate ownership of the park, but at the June 3 meeting, the preferred option was to develop the park with neighborhood input and turn it over to the Recreation and Park Department for ongoing maintenance.

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On a sunny Sunday in May the Deli Pub, 301 Cortland Avenue (at Bocana), was serving brunch (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.). I ordered a mimosa (champagne with fresh-squeezed orange juice) and a mushroom omelet and took a look around.

The Deli Pub's tables and walls are made of natural wood. Potted succulents and white and red carnations in graceful blue glass bottles decorate the tables. Sunlight brightens the tables near the front windows, where upside-down apple baskets serve as hanging lampshades. Colorful carved wood animal masks hang above the doorway and decorate the walls, and a gourd is mounted above the coat rack. The overall effect is light and airy despite the small space.

My mushroom omelet arrived buttery and sprinkled with paprika. A generous portion of home fries was seasoned with black pepper. The raspberry jam in a glass jar on the table was tasty with the lightly lemony corn muffin which accompanied my omelet, and the mimosa was delicious.

At the next table, the Deli Pub's electrician was reading a book by Noam Chomsky. He told me that the brunches are usually busy. "They're always popping their circuits," he said. "That's why I'm here." A vegetarian, he enjoys the food (while finding it a bit expensive) but feels the brunch menu offers limited fare for the non-meat-eater.

Brunch features two selections which include a mimosa: the Deli Pub

A Cure for the Munchies

By Gail Caswell

omelet (chicken, mushrooms, avocado and onions, \$5.90) and the Eggs Benedict (poached eggs with hollandaise sauce, \$5.50). Other choices include a variety of omelets ranging in price from \$3.75 for mushrooms or cheese to \$5.20 for chicken, jack and avocado. The brunch patron may also select bacon and eggs (\$3.95) or "just eggs" (\$2.25). All dishes are served with potatoes and toast or muffins (corn, wheat, blueberry, or black bottom). Beverages include the mimosa (\$1.50), fresh orange juice (.75 and \$1.35), espresso drinks ranging in price from .75 to \$1.60, imported and domestic beer, Italian sodas, steamed milk, hot chocolate, and Mexican hot chocolate.

Owner Willie Ruiz and manager Jay Taylor took over at the Deli Pub on April 1, and weekend and holiday brunches began on May 3. Brunch chef Bruce Lake (a specialist in European sauces) and waitresses Jeannie (who works Sunday) and Annie (who works Tuesdays through Saturdays and was raised in New York delis) complete the staff.

Lunches at the restaurant offer a variety of sandwiches, a tofu "meatloaf" sandwich for \$3.45 and vegetarian lasagna for \$3.50. Desserts include cheesecakes, cakes and cookies.

The deli began serving dinners on May 30. All dinners feature soup or salad, a dinner roll, and a complimentary glass of wine (or substitute beverage); the price is around \$5.00. Additions to the menu will include eggplant Parmesan and other vegetarian specials of the day. Homemade pastries and cakes are also

being added to the menu, as well as homemade preserves (the strawberry preserve has 50% less sugar than ordinary preserves). The deli is planning to buy a dessert cart on which to display the new pastries. Honey from a neighborhood beekeeper will soon be on sale at the counter.

The decor of the deli is undergoing a few changes. Jay says that a Bernal artist made a lamp with a Deli Pub insignia which may be displayed in the restaurant. Some of the artwork currently hanging will be replaced by the works of local artists. And for all those who have complained about the large color picture of the tuna fisherman near the door: "The fat fisherman will go."

"This is a community deli," affirms Jay. "It's small and for the people, and I'd like to think it's by the people, too. It's a homey-type place; everyone feels comfortable." Jay praises the efforts of his hardworking staff, adding that customers often help out when the deli is busy. The Deli Pub's involvement with the community, he says, extends to buying trash bags that cost a little more from Drake House, a Berkeley safe house for abused children whose parents are addicted to drugs or alcohol.

The Deli Pub is available for private parties with at least one week's notice, and will do catering with advance notice. Call 285-1631 for more information. The restaurant's new hours are every day from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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School Immunizations

Bay Area county health departments remind us that children entering kindergartens, schools and day care centers must have immunization records for admission.

Written immunization records from a doctor, nurse or health department are now required by a state law (effective March 5).

Previously, parents were allowed to simply fill in and sign a California School Immunization Record when entering their children in a school. The old law also allowed a 10-day grace period for entering students who needed additional doses of a required vaccine. That grace period has been abolished.

Glaucoma Screening

A glaucoma screening program for people 35 or over is offered at District Health Center #3, 1525 Silver Avenue. Next clinic: Saturday, July 12, 8:15-10:15 a.m. Appointments: 468-3664 (\$5 fee). The test is simple, quick, and painless.

Glaucoma is a leading cause of blindness in people over 35. Its onset is usually gradual. A person may be aware of only slight changes in vision. To prevent progress toward blindness, early detection and prompt treatment of glaucoma are necessary.

BERNAL JOURNAL


The Bernal Journal is produced every two months by a group of volunteers, with the support of community business. Our circulation for this issue is 5,000. Our mailing address is 515 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco 94110. Messages: 648-0330.

EDITOR: Lurilla Harris

DISTRIBUTION: Lee Egger

and Mary Lou Bartoletti

WORD PROCESSING: Lee Glickstein

PRINTING: Howard Quinn Co. 

ADVERTISERS

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Next deadline: July 18

DEADLINES:

Please ask for assignment or send notice of planned articles for next issue by July 18. Photos, ads and stories due July 25.

Maher Honored

A reception honoring Supervisor Bill Maher in recognition of his commitment to the preservation of open space and affordable housing in



Bill Maher,
Supervisor,
San Francisco

Bernal Heights was given on June 27. Supervisor Maher was awarded a plaque with the following inscription:

The People of Bernal Heights
Honor
BILL MAHER

The San Francisco Supervisor who has most contributed to the preservation of open space and thereby the enhancement of the quality of life in our community. Presented this 27th day of June, 1986, in San Francisco, California.

Now It's Legal

Motorists will no longer be ticketed for parking in their own driveways. On April 28 the Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance that authorizes property owners or lessees to park a vehicle in front of their private driveways.

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- Community Services
- Housing, Planning & Development
- Senior Services
- Youth Services
- Mgmt & Administration

DAILY

1. Senior lunch and programs, 9-2
2. Summer Youth Employment and Training Program
3. S.L.U.G. (S.F. League of Urban Gardeners), 9-11 a.m.
4. Housing Rehabilitation
5. Housing Development

WEEKLY

1. Narcotics Anonymous, Wednesdays 8:30-10 pm
2. Girl Scouts, Wednesdays 7:30-8:30 pm
3. Alcoholics Anonymous, Thursdays 7:30-9 pm
4. Bernal Gym (Moultrie/Jarboe) free classes
 - Weight lifting (Ted Turnipseed, 285-6252)
 - M-F 5-10 p.m., Sat. 2-5 p.m.
 - Thursday Ladies' Night 6:30-10 p.m.

Aerobics Tues./Thurs. 6:30-7:30, Susan Brooks

Bernal Playground's 11-and-under basketball team won the citywide championship. Adult softball league started June 15 and is playing Sundays at Martin Luther King Park on Third Street. Coordinated by Andre Daye, 648-0330.

MONTHLY

1. Cortland Merchants, 3rd Tuesday, 7:30 pm
2. BHCf Board, 3rd Tuesday, 7 pm
3. Neighborhood Center Committee, 2nd Wednesday, 6:30 pm
4. Senior Advisory Board, 1st Monday, 1 pm
5. Senior Birthday Lunch/Dance, last Monday at St. Kevin's Ellsworth Hall, 9-2
6. Government Food Distribution, last Thursday, 9 am

*** The public is invited to all of the above ***



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